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DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY
BRADFIELD AND EMERSON HALLS

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Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
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Dear Josh:

Many thanks for the copy of your letter to the New York Times. Needless to say, I disagree on some of the points raised in your letter and also in the item for the Washington Post. However, at this late date, unquestionably there is nothing to be done, either in regard to quarantine for Apollo II or to cancellation of the program of manned exploration of the lunar surface. Nevertheless, I believe that the noise that was made about the inadequacy, which I strongly believe is the case, of the IRL quarantine hopefully will serve a useful purpose, namely in designing a sensible Martian quarantine. In this regard, we are in complete agreement. This is not too soon to begin the necessary research and program formulation in order that an adequate quarantine will be instituted for manned vehicles to Mars.

Having been drawn into the area at a late date, I must admit that I have become most interested. I wish only that more microbiologists would become directly involved, particularly individuals who have competence in environmental microbiology.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Alexander
Professor
Soil Microbiology

MA/je